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REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE SITUATION WITH REGARD TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES**

(covering its work during 1992)

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CHAPTERS III and IV

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* A/47/150.

** This document contains chapters III and IV of the Special Committee's report to the General Assembly. The general introductory chapter will be issued under the symbol A/47/23 (Part I). Other chapters of the report have been issued under the symbol A/47/23 (Parts III to VII). The complete report will be issued subsequently as Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/47/23).

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CHAPTER III

DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION ON DECOLONIZATION

A. Consideration by the Special Committee

1. At its 1398th meeting, on 5 February 1992, by adopting the suggestions relating to the organization of its work put forward by the Chairman (A/AC.109/L.1775), the Special Committee decided, inter alia, to maintain its Subcommittee on Small Territories, Petitions, Information and Assistance and allocated to it certain specific items for its consideration. The Committee further decided to consider the question of the dissemination of information on decolonization, as appropriate, at its plenary and subcommittee meetings.

2. The Special Committee considered the item at its 1402nd meeting, on 20 July 1992.

3. In its consideration of the item, the Special Committee took into account the provisions of the relevant General Assembly resolutions including, in particular, resolution 46/72 of 11 December 1991 concerning the dissemination of information on decolonization, and resolution 46/71, of the same date, on the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples. The Committee also considered Assembly resolutions 40/56 of 2 December 1985 and 45/33 of 20 November 1990 relating, respectively, to the twenty-fifth and thirtieth anniversaries of the Declaration.

4. On the basis of the recommendation of the Subcommittee on Small Territories, Petitions, Information and Assistance at its 646th meeting, on 19 May, Mr. J. A. González-González made a statement at the same meeting. 1/

5. At the 1402nd meeting, on 20 July, the Rapporteur of the Subcommittee, in a statement to the Special Committee (A/AC.109/PV.1402), introduced the report of the Subcommittee (A/AC.109/L.1780), which related to consultations with the representative of the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat; consultations with the representative of the Department of Political Affairs; and the Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of All Colonial Territories, as well as Those in South Africa, Fighting for Freedom, Independence and Human Rights (25-29 May 1992).

6. At the same meeting, the Special Committee adopted the report of the Subcommittee (A/AC.109/L.1780) and endorsed the conclusions and recommendations contained therein (see para. 8).

7. Also at the same meeting, the Rapporteur introduced the report of the Subcommittee relating to the examination of petitions (A/AC.109/L.1782), of which the Committee took note (see also A/47/23 (Part VI), chap. X).

B. Decision of the Special Committee

8. The report of the Special Committee on Small Territories, Petitions, Information and Assistance (A/AC.109/L.1780), adopted by the Special Committee

at its 1402nd meeting, on 20 July 1992 (see para. 6), contained the following conclusions and recommendations:

(1) The Special Committee reiterates the importance of effecting the widest possible dissemination of accurate information on decolonization to further the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples (General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960) and to mobilize world public opinion in support of the peoples of colonial Territories in their efforts to achieve self-determination, freedom and independence.

(2) The Special Committee reiterates the great importance it attaches to the work of the Department of Political Affairs. The Committee urges the Department to continue to discharge its mandate, taking into account all the Territories under the consideration of the Committee.

(3) While noting the active participation of the Department of Public Information in the work of the Committee and its efforts to produce and disseminate information on decolonization, to monitor the responses received from the United Nations information centres and to report thereon, the Special Committee requests the Department:

(a) To continue to intensify, through all the means at its disposal, its work of publicity in the field of decolonization, basing its activities in this regard on the Charter; the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples; the Plan of Action for the Full Implementation of the Declaration, contained in the annex to General Assembly resolution 35/118 of 11 December 1980; the items on the agenda of the Special Committee; and all relevant resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly and of other organs of the United Nations active in the field of decolonization;

(b) To underline in all its activities that, despite major achievements in the process of decolonization, colonialism has not been completely eradicated and that the activities of the United Nations in this field should be given high priority until all of the goals of the Declaration have been achieved;

(c) To continue to disseminate information on all remaining colonial Territories under the consideration of the Special Committee, including information on military bases or facilities in any of those Territories;

(d) To disseminate more widely, particularly through parliamentary bodies, non-governmental organizations, mass media and universities, decolonization resolutions and decisions of the United Nations, including those adopted by the Special Committee, as well as other basic materials concerning decolonization and to distribute them, especially through United Nations information centres, in local languages when appropriate, in particular in those regions where there are still Non-Self-Governing Territories, and in countries that are administering Powers;

(e) To disseminate, or continue to disseminate, information in official languages of the United Nations, particularly in French, which is one of the two working languages of the Organization;

(f) To pursue its cooperation with the Pool of Non-Aligned News Agencies and to provide it on a regular basis with varied publicity material and information concerning United Nations activities in the field of decolonization;

(g) To continue to disseminate materials prepared by the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries concerning decolonization;

(h) To adopt measures aimed at providing full coverage of all activities of relevant United Nations bodies in the field of decolonization in press releases in both English and French;

(i) To continue to provide information material on decolonization through, inter alia, exhibitions to be shown outside United Nations Headquarters, to all United Nations information centres and to increase assistance to them in all related activities;

(j) To produce new visual material on problems of decolonization in cooperation with the Special Committee;

(k) To utilize materials pertaining to the participation of specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system in the decolonization process, and to distribute those materials, as appropriate, through the United Nations information centres.

(4) The Special Committee requests the Department of Public Information to provide it with feedback reports from the United Nations information centres regarding their dissemination of information on decolonization and, in particular, on the activities undertaken in 1992 in relation to the celebration of the Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of All Colonial Territories, as well as Those in South Africa, Fighting for Freedom, Independence and Human Rights.

(5) The Special Committee requests the Department of Public Information to continue its efforts to ensure that information bodies provide better coverage of decolonization in all regions.

(6) The Special Committee requests the Department of Public Information, in cooperation with the Department of Political Affairs, to increase its speaking engagements at university campuses on the subject of decolonization and to inform the Subcommittee of the experience and the results achieved.

(7) The Special Committee requests the Department of Public Information and the Department of Political Affairs to continue to take into consideration the important role being played by non-governmental organizations in the decolonization process and in the dissemination of information on the situation in all the remaining colonial Territories under consideration of the Committee. The Committee requests the two Departments to continue to intensify their cooperation with

non-governmental organizations in the dissemination of information on decolonization, particularly through briefings and the provision of relevant printed materials.

(8) The Special Committee appeals to the mass media to regard it as their task to contribute to the elimination of the remaining manifestations of colonialism by disseminating information on the decolonization issues and to provide support to the peoples of the colonial countries.

C. Other decisions of the Special Committee

9. The Special Committee also took decisions during the year relating to publicity in connection with other items on its agenda as follows:

(a) In a resolution concerning foreign economic activities in colonial countries, adopted at its 1411th meeting, on 7 August 1992 (see A/AC.109/1135 and A/47/23 (Part III), chap. V), the Special Committee, inter alia, requested the Secretary-General to continue, through all means at his disposal, to inform world public opinion of those activities of foreign economic and other interests which impede the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples. The Special Committee also appealed to mass media, trade unions and non-governmental organizations, as well as individuals, to continue their efforts for the full implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and in the struggle against apartheid and the mobilization of international public opinion against the policy pursued by the South African apartheid regime and to oppose the relaxation of existing measures against the regime, in order to accelerate the process of constitutional change with the aim of establishing a united, democratic and non-racial South Africa.

(b) In a decision on military activities in colonial Territories, adopted at its 1411th meeting, on 7 August 1992 (see A/AC.109/1136 and A/47/23 (Part III), chap. VI), the Special Committee requested the Secretary-General to continue, through all means at his disposal, to inform world public opinion of the facts concerning the military activities and arrangements in colonial Territories which are impeding the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, contained in General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV).

CHAPTER IV

QUESTION OF SENDING VISITING MISSIONS TO TERRITORIES

A. Consideration by the Special Committee

1. At its 1398th meeting, on 5 February 1992, by adopting the suggestions relating to the organization of its work put forward by the Chairman (A/AC.109/L.1775), the Special Committee decided to take up the question of sending visiting missions to Territories as appropriate. The Committee further decided that the item should be considered at its plenary meetings and, as appropriate, by its Subcommittee on Small Territories, Petitions, Information and Assistance, in connection with its examination of specific Territories.

2. The Special Committee considered the item at its 1401st, 1403rd and 1407th meetings, between 1 June and 28 July.

3. In its consideration of the item, the Special Committee took into account the provisions of the relevant General Assembly resolutions including, in particular, those provisions relating to the question contained in resolution 46/71 of 11 December 1991 on the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, and resolution 46/68 of 11 December 1991 and Assembly decision 46/422 of the same date relating to specific Territories. The Committee also considered Assembly resolutions 40/56 of 2 December 1985 and 45/33 of 20 November 1990 relating, respectively, to the twenty-fifth and thirtieth anniversaries of the Declaration.

4. During its consideration of the item, the Special Committee had before it the report of the Chairman (A/AC.109/L.1783) on his consultations with representatives of the administering Powers, undertaken in accordance with paragraph 4 of the resolution adopted by the Committee at its 1387th meeting, on 9 August 1991. 2/ In his report, the Chairman stated, inter alia, that he had he had appealed to the administering Powers to continue to cooperate with the United Nations by permitting the access of visiting missions to the Territory under their administration as a means of securing firsthand information on those Territories and of ascertaining the wishes and aspirations of the peoples of those Territories relating to their future status. It was his understanding, from the exchange of views that took place at the regional seminar in Grenada, 3/ that some territorial Governments had expressed their willingness to receive United Nations visiting missions.

5. The Chairman reported that he had taken that opportunity to express his appreciation to the administering Powers concerned for their cooperation in facilitating the participation of a number of representatives from Non-Self-Governing Territories in the Grenada Seminar. Their participation was an asset to the Seminar and the information they provided to the Committee would be useful in the Committee's future consideration of those Territories.

6. The Chairman reported that he had also apprised the administering Powers of the progress achieved in the reforms that the Committee had initiated to improve its efficiency and method of work in the fulfilment of its mandate and called upon the administering Powers to cooperate in the Committee's efforts.

7. The Chairman noted with satisfaction that a number of administering Powers had reiterated their willingness to continue to provide all relevant information on the Territories under their respective administration, to participate in the work of the Committee and to receive visiting missions in the Territories under their administration, as appropriate, and on the basis of consultations to be held subsequently.

8. In that connection, the Chairman reported that he was informed by one of the administering Powers that the possibility of a further visiting mission to the Territory under its administration was currently under review by the leaders of the Territory.

9. The Chairman noted that the representative of another administering Power stated that, with regard to visiting missions, her Government had always had an open mind as long as the established procedure and practice were followed; that all envisaged visiting missions should be studied on a case-by-case basis to determine their objectives and to assess whether they would be productive and beneficial. Her Government could re-evaluate its current policy regarding its participation in the work of the Committee and on the question of visiting missions if the reforms initiated by the Committee prove to be constructive and lead to positive results. It was the hope of her Government that those reforms would be reflected in the Committee's recommendations to the General Assembly, which would have a positive impact on the re-evaluation of her Government's current policy. The dispatch of visiting missions must be preceded by the establishment of a productive relationship between the Committee and the administering Power.

10. Further to his consultations, the Chairman reported that the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom to the United Nations had addressed a letter to the Chairman on 16 July 1992, which stated the following:

> "The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland takes seriously its obligations to its Dependent Territories under Chapter XI of the Charter. Under Article 73 e it regularly submits information on conditions in the Dependent Territories to the Fourth Committee. Our position on the Special Committee is well known. We therefore see no case for visiting missions by the Special Committee to our Dependent Territories."

11. During its consideration of this question, the Special Committee took into account the conclusions and recommendations it had adopted at its 1401st meeting, on 1 June (A/AC.109/L.1776); see also A/47/23 (Part I), chapter I, paragraphs 30-39, and annex I.

12. At the 1403rd meeting, on 22 July, the Chairman drew attention to his report on the item (A/AC.109/L.1783) as well as a related draft resolution prepared by him (A/AC.109/L.1784).

13. At its 1407th meeting, on 28 July, the Special Committee adopted the draft resolution (A/AC.109/L.1784) without objection (see para. 17).

14. On 6 August, the text of the resolution (A/AC.109/1131) was transmitted to the representatives of the administering Powers concerned for the attention of their respective Governments.

15. In addition to the consideration of the item at the plenary meetings of the Special Committee, as described below, the Subcommittee on Small Territories, Petitions, Information and Assistance in considering the specific Territories referred to it, took into account the relevant provisions of the General Assembly resolutions and decisions mentioned in paragraph 3, as well as previous decisions of the Committee relating to the item.

16. By approving the relevant reports of that Subcommittee, the Special Committee endorsed a number of conclusions and recommendations concerning the sending of visiting missions to Territories, as reflected in chapter X of the present report (A/47/23 (Part VI)), relating to American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Guam, Montserrat, Tokelau, the Turks and Caicos Islands, the United States Virgin Islands and St. Helena.

B. Decision of the Special Committee

17. The text of the resolution (A/AC.109/1131) adopted by the Special Committee at its 1407th meeting, on 28 July 1992, to which reference is made in paragraph 13, is reproduced below:

The Special Committee,

Having considered the question of sending visiting missions to Territories,

Having examined the report of the Chairman on the question, 4/

Recalling the relevant resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly and the Special Committee requesting the administering Powers to cooperate fully with the United Nations by receiving visiting missions in the Territories under their administration,

Mindful that United Nations visiting missions provide an effective means of assessing the situation in those Territories and of ascertaining the wishes and aspirations of the peoples thereof regarding their future status,

Conscious that United Nations visiting missions enhance the capacity of the United Nations to assist the peoples of colonial Territories in attaining the objectives set forth in the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, contained in General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, and in other relevant resolutions of the Assembly,

Noting with regret that some administering Powers do not participate in the work of the Special Committee,

1. Stresses the need to dispatch periodic visiting missions to colonial Territories in order to facilitate the full, speedy and effective implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples with respect to those Territories;

2. Calls upon the administering Powers to cooperate or continue to cooperate with the United Nations by receiving United Nations visiting missions in the Territories under their administration;

3. Continues to call upon those administering Powers that are not participating in the work of the Special Committee to reconsider their decisions and to take an active part in the work of the Committee;

4. Requests its Chairman to continue consultations with the administering Powers concerned on the implementation of paragraph 2 of the present resolution and to report thereon to the Special Committee as appropriate.

Notes

1/ See press release GA/COL/2837.

2/ See A/46/23 (Part II), chap. III, para. 15. The complete report is to be issued as Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/46/23).

3/ Regional Seminar to Review the Special Development Needs of Island Territories, held within the context of the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, at St. George's, Grenada, from 17 to 19 June 1992 (see A/AC.109/1114).

4/ A/AC.109/L.1783.